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Grain Transportation Situation

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Transportation

Washington, D.C.
20250

October 20, 1986

ORIGINAL



ICC Postpones Vote on Contract Disclosure. The Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) postponed until November 4 a vote on the agreement between the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and Association of American Railroads (AAR) governing agricultural contract disclosure. The NGFA/AAR agreement would apply to contracts for the transportation of raw grains and soybeans. The ICC postponed its decision because of pending legislation that would require more liberal contract disclosure and discovery procedures than would the NGFA/AAR agreement.

Largest ILA Local in New Orleans Back at Work. The largest International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) local in New Orleans voted to end a 6-day old strike, but refused to cross picket lines of three smaller ILA locals. The strike affected only bulk and breakbulk ships. ILA workers continued to work containerhips under the terms of a coastwide master contract covering containerized cargo.

Harvest Resumes. The grain harvest has resumed in the Upper Midwest after heavy rains caused growers to abandon wet fields. Much of the 1986 crop will be heading to storage. Presently the supply of rail cars is reportedly tight. Barge shipments will pick up as the river system gets back to normal after being closed by high water.

Old Crop Corn. Old crop corn stored in all positions on September 1, 1986, is estimated at 4.04 billion bushels (103 million metric tons). Of the total stocks, 2.05 billion bushels (52.1 million metric tons) were stored on the farm and 1.99 billion bushels (50.5 million metric tons) were stored off the farm.

Court Denies Box Car Appeal. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia refused October 15 to stay new ICC rules (Ex Parte No. 346-Sub 19) on box car hire and service. Petitioners, Evans Transportation Company and Emons Industries, Inc. asked the ICC and the Circuit Court to stay the October 16 effective date of the order as it related to the "grandfather clause" contained in the Commission's September 12 decision. Evans and Emons said the definition of "excluded box car" in the adopted rules should be broadened to apply to any box car in existence on December 30, 1983, not owned by a Class I railroad, when such cars are now owned or leased by short lines and certain Class II railroads.

River Situation. At Locks and Dam 26, during the previous 24 hours, 15 tows with 195 barges have passed upbound and 11 tows with 106 barges downbound. This morning there were 13 tows waiting upbound and none down. At the Gulf on Thursday, 1,197 barges were waiting to unload grains, oilseeds, and products, of that amount 538 were in the New Orleans area. The total empty barges on hand was 625, which included 312 in the New Orleans Harbor. At the Gulf in the New Orleans/Baton Rouge area last Friday, 9 vessels were reported loading grain, while 20 waited. In the Columbia River Basin, also on Friday, 3 vessels were at berth being loaded, while 5 waited.

NOTE: This report will not be published next week. The Office of Transportation will be moving to a new location.

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UNITED STATES GRAIN STOCKS
(DOMESTIC UNITS)

DATE	ON FARMS	OFF FARMS 1/	TOTAL ALL POSITIONS	ON FARMS	OFF FARMS 1/	TOTAL ALL POSITIONS
	1985			1986		
	1,000 BUSHELS CORN					
JAN 1	4,304,054	1,560,171	5,864,225	5,525,096	2,366,162	7,891,258
APR 1	2,833,806	1,131,736	3,965,542	3,979,886	1,965,087	5,944,973
JUN 1	2,007,823	827,701	2,835,524	3,141,546	1,846,972	4,988,518
SEP 1	N/A	N/A	2/1,648,200	2,049,410	1,988,640	4,038,050
	SORGHUM 3/					
JAN 1	228,780	496,283	725,063	327,473	663,062	990,535
APR 1	134,904	346,392	481,296			
JUN 1	89,076	271,700	360,776	136,936	491,984	628,920
SEP 1	N/A	N/A	2/300,200	91,500	459,506	551,006
	OATS 3/					
JAN 1	300,332	57,727	358,059	310,153	68,426	378,579
APR 1	211,676	44,676	256,352			
JUN 1	146,450	33,428	179,878	146,707	36,535	183,242
SEP 1						
	BARLEY 3/					
JAN 1	307,300	129,623	436,923	365,131	168,449	533,580
APR 1	216,721	103,147	319,868			
JUN 1	163,361	84,033	247,394	199,030	125,548	324,578
SEP 1						
	ALL WHEAT					
JAN 1	930,281	1,210,750	2,141,031	1,011,184	1,514,964	2,526,148
APR 1	713,437	953,694	1,667,131	799,408	1,330,641	2,130,049
JUN 1	582,077	843,163	1,425,240	681,059	1,223,901	1,904,960
SEP 1	N/A	N/A	2/3,203,500	1,291,000	1,824,106	3,115,106
	DURUM WHEAT 4/					
JAN 1	95,033	37,212	132,245	111,608	38,441	150,049
APR 1	81,819	33,007	114,826	89,192	46,878	136,070
JUN 1	69,225	30,581	99,806	78,929	42,355	121,284
SEP 1	N/A	N/A	2/182,800	124,150	53,122	177,272
	SOYBEANS					
JAN 1	766,335	655,724	1,422,059	927,395	837,884	1,765,279
APR 1	487,369	408,632	896,001	599,246	576,738	1,175,984
JUN 1	326,596	281,821	608,417	411,740	437,186	848,926
SEP 1	143,221	172,836	316,057	167,090	369,175	536,265

N/A = NOT AVAILABLE.

1/ INCLUDES STOCKS AT MILLS, ELEVATORS, WAREHOUSES, TERMINALS AND PROCESSORS.

2/ ADJUSTED: FOR 10-YEAR SERIES AND METHODS USED TO DEVELOP DATA SEE GRAIN STOCKS RELEASED APRIL 29 AND JUNE 27, 1986.

3/ PER PROGRAM MODIFICATION: STOCKS ESTIMATES, FOR BARLEY AND OATS WILL BE MADE AS JUNE 1 EACH YEAR; SORGHUM STOCKS ESTIMATES EACH JUNE 1 AND SEPTEMBER 1.

4/ INCLUDED IN ALL WHEAT.



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GRAIN TRANSPORTATION

WEEK
ENDED

1986

COMPARABLE WEEK
1985

INSPECTIONS FOR EXPORT (1,000 Bushels)

Sep 18	59,150	52,675
Sep 25	73,835	53,683
Oct 2	69,785	59,566
Oct 9	64,218	61,254
Calendar Year to Date	2,176,745	2,577,309

RAIL CARLOADINGS

Sep 20	30,179	19,046
Sep 27	28,661	20,509
Oct 4	30,079	21,114
Oct 11	29,950	23,033
Calendar Year to Date	941,167*	893,300

*Revised

RAIL DELIVERIES TO PORTS (Carloads)

	<u>North Atlantic</u>	<u>So. Atlantic & Gulf</u>	<u>Pacific Coast</u>	<u>North Atlantic</u>	<u>So. Atlantic & Gulf</u>	<u>Pacific Coast</u>
Sep 17	458	3,422	2,476	733	1,706	741
Sep 24	501	5,159	2,644	709	2,365	1,108
Oct 1	441	5,151	2,608	596	2,568	1,071
Oct 8	381	4,242	2,344	1,195	2,485	1,514
CY to Date	30,313	120,303	73,510	50,451	118,860	103,054

AVERAGE GRAIN PRICES (\$ Per Bushel)

	<u>WHEAT</u>	<u>CORN</u> ^{1/}	<u>SOYBEANS</u> ^{2/}	<u>WHEAT</u>	<u>CORN</u> ^{1/}	<u>SOYBEANS</u> ^{2/}
Sep 5	2.54	1.52	4.73	3.07	2.63	5.16
Sep 12	2.52	1.49	4.70	3.09	2.50	5.09
Sep 19	2.53	1.45	4.73	3.06	2.40	5.17
Sep 26	2.52	1.53	4.78	3.05	2.43	5.21
Oct 3	2.59	1.58	4.81	3.04	2.37	5.12

(Wheat-#1 HRW - ORD., Kansas City; Corn #2 Yellow, Chicago; SB-#1 Yellow, Chicago)

^{1/} Bought to arrive 15 days.
^{2/} Bought to arrive 30 days.

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MAJOR EXPORT SALES*
(1,000 Metric Tons)

<u>WEEK ENDED</u>		<u>1986</u>			<u>1985</u>		
		<u>WHEAT</u>	<u>CORN</u>	<u>SOYBEANS</u>	<u>WHEAT</u>	<u>CORN</u>	<u>SOYBEANS</u>
Sep	11	4,643	6,547	3,971	3,888	6,750	2,446
Sep	18	4,452	6,728	4,107	4,560	7,431	2,647
Sep	25	4,221	6,912	4,276	4,496	8,223	2,907
Oct	2	3,832	6,850	4,474	4,421	9,481	3,450
Oct	9	3,456	6,712	4,762	4,201	9,471	4,111

*Unshipped Balances-Current & Next Marketing Year

GULF COAST OCEAN GRAIN VESSELS

		<u>IN PORT</u>	<u>LOADED 7 DAYS</u>	<u>DUE NEXT 10 DAYS</u>	<u>IN PORT</u>	<u>LOADED 7 DAYS</u>	<u>DUE NEXT 10 DAYS</u>
Sep	19	46	43	84	43	48	76
Sep	26	48	61	68	47	57	60
Oct	3	50	64	51	30	51	61
Oct	10	46	44	66	39	42	62
Oct	17	40	53	68	40	44	62

COVERED HOPPER CAR OWNERSHIP
(1,000 Cars)

		<u>RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**</u>	<u>PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**</u>	<u>RAILROADS COVERED HOPPER**</u>	<u>PRIVATE COVERED HOPPER**</u>
Jun	1	121.6	112.0	123.2	114.3
Jul	1	121.0	112.3	123.3	114.3
Aug	1	121.3	112.8	123.8	115.3
Sep	1	121.7	113.8	123.3	115.2
Oct	1	122.9	114.4	123.2	115.2

**Jumbo Covered Hoppers Only

OCEAN FREIGHT RATES*
(Dollars/Ton - Basis Vessel Size/Ton)

<u>U.S. Loading Port</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Estimated Freight Rates</u>	<u>Dates of Movement</u>
Gulf	Japan	\$12.35-\$9.35(47M-52M)	Oct-Dec
Gulf	Rotterdam/Antwerp	\$13.50-\$6.75(14M-80M)	Oct-Nov
	Hamburg		
Gulf	Taiwan	\$12.30-\$11.80(25M-33M)	Oct-Dec
Great Lakes	Rotterdam/Antwerp	\$14.50(15M)	October
	Hamburg		
Pacific Northwest	Japan	\$8.60-\$7.35(40M-52M)	November
Gulf	Venezuela	\$13.50-\$12.00(6.5M-9.4M)	October
Pacific Northwest	China	\$10.00(34M)	October
Gulf	Egypt	\$17.50(15M)	October

*These ocean fixtures are based on full ship charters.

This report is prepared by Bill Dunton & Martha Bearer, Traffic Management Specialists, Domestic Division, Office of Transportation, 202/447-6793.

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